

Memorial Day
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Memorial Day is a special day to honor those men and women who gave their lives in the service of the United States. We celebrate those brave Americans whose patriotism and love of country echoes throughout our history from the American Revolution to current military action in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our nation is free today because of the selflessness and devotion shown by our fallen soldiers.

We must not forget the current war in Iraq and Afghanistan. During this difficult time, we pause out of respect for the brave men and women who have lost their lives. We remember that they were fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters and friends who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country.

This year I am encouraging families to join with mine in observing the National Moment of Remembrance. Across our country, Americans will pause at 3 p.m. on Monday in a moment of silence and reflection to honor our fallen soldiers. Joining together in a national act of unity is a fitting tribute to honor the countless sacrifices made by American soldiers, past and present.

Listed below are three important events being held on Memorial Day in the 4th District:

Bellevue Memorial Park in Ontario will have special Memorial Day services on Monday at 10 a.m., north of the Bellevue Mausoleum within the cemetery grounds. The cemetery is located at 1240 G St., Ontario.

The second venue will be a Memorial Day program to be held on Monday at 6 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Garden adjacent to the Montclair City Hall, located at 5111 Benito St., in Montclair.

The third event will be a Memorial Day program held on Monday at 9 a.m. at the Chino Community Building, 5443 B. St., Chino. There will be a buffet following the ceremony at Post Headquarters, 13759 Central Ave., Chino.

I will never forget talking to a retired Marine Corps officer a year or so ago, and his recounting that a recent visit to a military cemetery on Memorial Day was a lonely experience. In the four hours he spent placing flags on graves and pruning away vegetation, no one else came. To a man who fought in three wars and suffered multiple physical wounds, this may have been the ultimate indignity to the brave men and women in that cemetery.

Please do not allow that to happen again.

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate the sacrifices of our fallen soldiers, take a moment to discuss with your children the great contributions veterans have made to our country. U.S. Army veteran Charles M. Province wrote, "It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech."

We remember the soldier as our most noble example, the utmost believer of selflessness and the ultimate provider of liberty. People of patriotism and good will may debate the merits of a

particular mission. But there should be no debate about our debt to the hundreds of thousands who made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives heeding the nation's call to service. Please, pray for our men and women in the military and their families on this Memorial Day. God Bless.